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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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[redacted]

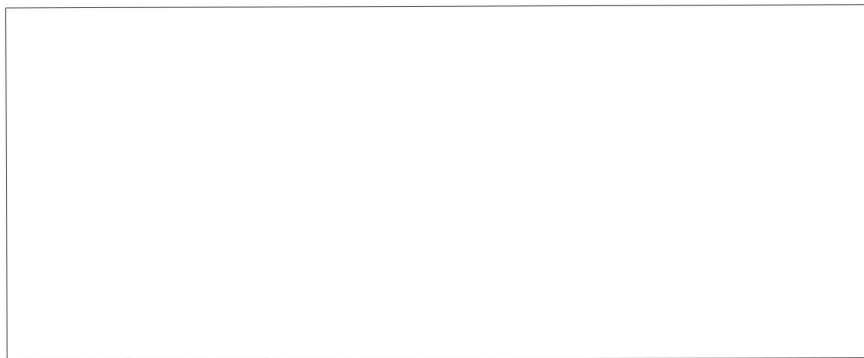
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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)



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\*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: It appears that another rotation of Chinese antiaircraft artillery units in North Vietnam is taking place.

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[ ] the shift involves the withdrawal of the 105th AAA Division from Lang Son and its replacement by the 111th AAA Division. This is a normal unit rotation since the 105th Division has been in North Vietnam for about six months, the standard tour of duty for Chinese air defense units.

On the political front, Hanoi is trying to undercut rumors that the 77-year-old Ho Chi Minh is in failing health. After about ten months of almost total inactivity, Ho has made four separate public appearances in recent weeks, and observers report he looked better than he did last summer. It is probable that the North Vietnamese are trying to take advantage of a period in which Ho's physical condition has improved. Some of the reports of his illness in past months seemed to have considerable substance.

South Vietnam: Communist main force units continue to pose a major threat to northern III Corps.

Elements of three enemy divisions in this area have recently demonstrated considerable maneuverability as well as an ability to recover after suffering heavy losses. While some of these units are maintaining infiltration routes and securing base areas, other units in recent weeks have been involved in attacks of varying intensity against Allied installations.

In addition, as many as three North Vietnamese battalions have been traced since late November moving southward from the western highlands and may end up

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in northern III Corps. [REDACTED]  
the units is similar to that to the 88th Regiment when  
it shifted from the highlands to III Corps in the fall of  
1967.

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Cambodia: Phnom Penh is improving its border  
defenses along the northeastern border adjacent to  
South Vietnam, probably against the possibility that  
hostilities may spread into the area.

[REDACTED], all  
border units in the area have been placed on alert and  
ordered to improve their fortifications. They were  
also asked to review the need for additional reinforce-  
ments.

3.3(h)(2)

The new measures probably do not, however, fore-  
shadow any really extensive effort to build up the Cam-  
bodian military complement in this area. Sihanouk an-  
nounced last week that he would not attempt to oppose  
'hot pursuit' operations undertaken in this remote  
sector. [REDACTED]

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